

Albert F. Madlener House
(Now Graham Foundation for
Advanced Studies in Fine Arts)
4 West Burton Place,
northwest corner of Burton Place
and North State Street
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1023

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
25-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

ALBERT F. MADLENER HOUSE
(now Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts)

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Location: 4 West Burton Place, northwest corner of Burton Place and North State Street, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

Present Owner and Occupant: Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

Present Use: Offices of the Graham Foundation.

Statement of Significance: This is one of the finest residential works of the Chicago Architect Richard E. Schmidt, and an example of the work of the Prairie School. With its simple cubic volume and strong horizontality, it was an exceptional design for the time.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners (chain of title): Abstract of chain of title from Book 428 New, pp. 158-159, in Cook County Recorder's Office.

The property was owned by Mrs. Albert F. (Elsa Seipp) Madlener for many years. At her death it passed to Albert F. Madlener in 1962 (Inventory of estate dated July 8, 1962, Document 633/372). Albert F. Madlener sold the property March 5, 1963 to the present owners, with the deed held by the Chicago Title and Trust Company (Documents 18734087, 18734088, 18734089).

2. Date of erection: Original drawings dated 1902.
3. Architect: Richard E. Schmidt.
4. Alterations and additions: The house has survived with very few changes. It is being renovated in 1963 for the use of the present owners by Danforth, Brenner and Rockwell, Architects. Present work involves mainly cleaning and restoration. The one important change is the lowering of the window sills of the courtyard windows in the dining room to match other windows on the main floor.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary Sources: Drawings of the house labeled: "Residence for Mrs. Albert F. Madlener, N.W. corner of N. State Street and Burton Place, Richard E. Schmidt, Architect,

172 Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, 1902." Original drawings in the possession of Schmidt, Garden and Erickson, Architects, 104 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. Microfilm of original drawings in the Burnham Library, Art Institute of Chicago, Roll 5, Frames 56-90.

2. Bibliography:

Condit, Carl W. The Rise of the Skyscraper. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1952. pp. 230, 231, 237-242.

David, Arthur C. "The Architecture of Ideas," Architectural Record, Vol. XV (1904). pp. 361-385.

Herbert, William. "An American Architecture," Architectural Record, Vol. XXIII (1908). pp. 111-122.

Sturges, Russell. "The Madlener House in Chicago," Architectural Record, Vol. XVII (1905). pp. 491-498.

_____. "The Schoenhofer Brewery," Architectural Record, Vol. XVII (1905). pp. 201-207.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is one of the finest residential works of the Chicago Architect Richard E. Schmidt, and an example of the work of the Prairie School. With its simple cubic volume and strong horizontality, it was an exceptional design for the time.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular main block: 59'-4" (south front) x 50', plus short side kitchen wing at rear of west wall 19'-2" x 16'-7". Three stories.

2. Foundations: Facing of smooth-faced, regular-coursed, limestone ashlar: two molded water tables.

3. Wall construction: Warm dark, long and narrow brick with narrow mortar joints. Indiana limestone trim. Projecting belt courses between floors. Horizontal stone bands on

first floor are flush with the surface of the brick. Patterned brick rectangles on the top floor. Note on original drawing reads: "Bricks are to be laid so that every eight courses measure 1'-3"...Horizontal joints in white mortar, vertical joints in mortar of the same color as the bricks."

4. Stoops: The entrance stoop is two steps high, with high limestone sidewalls.
5. Chimneys: Brick chimney in rear wing.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance is slightly to the right of the center (south front)-the wide limestone door enframement has smooth rectangular forms, its surfaces incised with Sullivanesque ornament. The lighted wooden door has sidelights and a top light; plate glass replaces the original colored glass.
 - b. Windows: Windows are one-over-one-light, double-hung, wooden sash, with limestone window enframements. They are mostly grouped in twos and threes. Octagonal colonettes with free composite capitals enframe top floor windows.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hipped roof, tile covering, steel trusses.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Simple limestone cornice, flat surfaces, large beaded bed mold. Low parapet above cornice, brick with limestone coping.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Basement: store rooms, furnace room, laundry, butler's room. Main floor: Entrance leads to short stairway, up seven steps to vestibule leading to square hallway at center of house, main stairway at rear of hallway against north wall of house; living room joined by wide double doors with music room along east side of house, 18' x 46' overall; dining room at southwest corner, 18' x 28'-8"; pantries, rear stair, servants' hall and kitchen at northwest corner and extending into short kitchen wing. Similar room arrangement on second floor with five bedrooms. Rear stair leads to third floor with large hall room on the east, 34'-9" x 46' refreshment room at the southwest, and servants' rooms at the northwest.

2. Stairways: Open well main stair approached directly from the center hall, up five steps, turn left up two steps, turn right up two steps, turn right up nine steps, turn right up seven steps; large rectangular newels, high level rails, rectangular balusters spaced closely. Rear stair: U-shape, open well.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
4. Doorways and doors: Single panel, wooden doors.
5. Decorative features: Deep wooden ceiling cornices in ball-room where ceiling rises slightly under roof. Wooden trim made of simple pieces assembled in rectangular patterns.
6. Heating: Central heating. There are fireplaces in the living room, the music room, the dining room, the main hall and the second floor hall; the mantels are similar to other interior wooden trim and finish.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south at the northwest corner of State Street and Burton Place. The lot is small with the house at the southeast corner, a carriage house at the west, and a small service yard between.
2. Outbuildings: The two-story carriage house at the west end of the lot has been converted into a house. Its treatment matches that of the house. There are stalls, a carriage room and a harness room on the first floor, and a hay loft and an apartment on the second floor. The over-all size is 23'-8" x 56'-8".
3. Walks: There are public sidewalks on the south and east sides of the house.

Prepared by Osmund Overby
Supervisory Architect
National Park Service
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